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Fact Sheet

OLYMPIC VIEW RESOURCE AREA-COMMENCEMENT BAY *Tacoma, Washington*



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

April 2001

Olympic View Resource Area

Middle Waterway Tacoma, Washington

EPA Wants Your Comments

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking comments on alternatives for removing contaminated sediments at the Olympic View Resource Area. This site is located offshore of the peninsula between the Thea Foss and Middle Waterways.

Public Comment Period May 4 to June 4, 2001

EPA considered three different cleanup alternatives, ranging from no action to removal and off-site disposal of the highly contaminated sediments. These alternatives are described in greater detail later in this fact sheet. EPA encourages you to comment during the 30-day comment period. All comments will be reviewed and considered before the final cleanup action is chosen. Comments should be sent by June 4th to:

Karen Keeley, EPA Project Manager
U.S. EPA
1200 Sixth Avenue, MS/ECL-111
Seattle, WA 98101
or e-mail to: keeley.karen@epa.gov

Background

The Olympic View Resource Area is located offshore of the peninsula between the Thea Foss and Middle Waterways. The area has been designated as a habitat restoration site. The primary contaminants in the sediments are metals, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and dioxins. EPA received dioxin sediment sampling results in 1998. Since that time, EPA has been working in cooperation with the City of Tacoma, Ecology, and the Commencement Bay Natural Resource Trustees to study the sediment contamination in the project area. The City of Tacoma has been doing the sampling work voluntarily. Sampling results indicated sediment contamination exceeds the Washington State Sediment Quality Standards, and dioxin levels are the highest reported to date in Puget Sound. A removal action is necessary to protect public health and the environment.

Summary of Cleanup Alternatives

EPA has proposed removal and disposal of the sediments as its preferred alternative. This decision is explained in a document called an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA). The EE/CA includes a summary and analysis of all the cleanup options considered for this area. Copies of the EE/CA are available for review at the locations listed at the end of this fact sheet.

Alternative 1 - Deep Dredge and Cap (EPA's Preferred Alternative)

This alternative includes removal and disposal of the contaminated sediments at an acceptable off-site disposal site, as well as some capping in the project area. In areas where the contamination is only one foot in depth, the entire area would be dredged, leaving no contamination in place. Backfilling these areas would be provided to restore the natural beach grade.

In areas where the contamination is deeper than one foot, two different approaches are proposed. In areas where a three foot dredge would remove the bulk of the contamination, three feet would be dredged and the area backfilled to restore to the beach grade. If the contamination extends deeper than four feet, the area would be dredged to four feet and a cap would be placed to isolate the remaining contaminants. The cap would be designed to trap contaminants in the lower layers, isolating them with a half foot of crushed gravel topped by three feet of clean material that has been approved for other similar areas in Commencement Bay.

Before dredging and capping or backfill, pilings that formerly supported the plywood building would be either pulled or cut below the beach surface. Piling footprints would be backfilled with clean sediments to prevent excessive tidal disturbance to newly exposed sediments. The pilings would be disposed of in an appropriate off-site landfill.

Long-term monitoring would involve periodic observation of the cap. Saltmarsh plants would be planted along the low bank portion of the upper beach. Institutional controls, including designation of the site as an environmental reserve and signs to educate the public on protec-

tion of natural resources, would be established at the site to limit disturbance.

A total surface area of approximately 2.2 acres would be actively cleaned up through a combination of dredging and capping. The total volume of contaminated sediments dredged and removed from the site is estimated at over 2 acres. The estimated cost of alternative #1 is \$1,925,000.

Alternative 2 - Shallow Dredge and Cap

This alternative is similar to alternative #1, but the dredging is more limited in both depth and area, and capping is used more extensively to control contaminant releases.

Under alternative #2, the pilings would be removed or cut, long-term monitoring would be performed, saltmarsh plants would be planted and institutional controls would be in place, the same as alternative #1.

A total surface area of approximately 2.7 acres would be capped or filled. The total volume of contaminated sediments dredged and removed from the site is estimated at 950 cubic yards. The estimated cost of alternative #2 is \$1,220,000.

Alternative 3 - No Action

The No Action alternative provides a baseline against which other removal action alternatives can be compared. Under this alternative, pilings would be left in place, no dredging or capping of contaminated sediments would be performed, and there would be no institutional controls. The site would be left in its current condition. There is no cost associated with alternative #3.

For More Information

If you have questions or would like more information about the Olympic View Resource Area, please contact:

Karen Keeley, EPA Project Manager, at **(206) 553-2141**; e-mail - keeley.karen@epa.gov

Jeanne O'Dell, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, at **(206) 553-6919**;
e-mail - odell.jeanne@epa.gov

or call EPA's toll free number **1-800-424-4372**.

To review documents concerning activities at this site, visit the information repositories located in Tacoma and Seattle:

Tacoma Main Public Library
1102 Tacoma Avenue South
Northwest Room
Tacoma, WA

Citizens for a Healthy Bay
917 Pacific Avenue, Suite 406
Tacoma, WA
(253) 383-2429

Please call for an appointment if information is needed after business hours.

U. S. EPA
1200 Sixth Avenue
7th Floor Records Center
Seattle, WA

To ensure effective communication with everyone, additional services can be made available to persons with disabilities by contacting one of the EPA numbers listed above.





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